

Ku Klux Klan—1915.

"WHITE CAPS" STILL IN EXISTENCE.

Admission 10-15
John G. more, a negro who lives in city limits, has been repeatedly warned to leave the town. He says he does not know why. Three notes that threatened "to get him" have been left at his home during the past few weeks. The last one was left Tuesday night. John works with Mr. Danzey, and seems to attend to his own business. He has called upon the authorities for protection. The guilty parties may not know how severe the penalty is for such conduct. But if caught it will be demonstrated to them. Who it may be and why they want to run John off, no one seems to know.—Abbeville News.

The News says in its headline over this editorial that the warnings come from "White Caps." This is no doubt true. "White Caps" is not a permanent, continuous organization in Alabama, but there are counties in the State, notably Henry county, in which "White Capism" is still an institution, though a relic of another day. The depredations of this clan are today very rare, but twenty-five years ago and further back, these depredations were common in the "white" counties. Usually the operations were directed against negroes, but not always. Occasionally an undesirable white settler in the community was visited by the "White Caps" and given the alternative of departing hastily from the county or submitting to a lashing by the order. Wife beaters have been punished by "White Caps."

Original Ku Kluxism, an honored, worthy and necessary thing, that lived a few years immediately after the war, was charged with many outrages committed by other organizations. After the Ku Klux Klan was disbanded by order of the Grand Wizard, many organizations sprang up, not only in Alabama, but in other Southern States. There was a mysterious anti-Ku Klux organization. Along with this were such clans as the "White Camella," the "White Brotherhood," the "White League" and the "White Caps." The name of the latter has been retained over a longer period of years than either of the others, though as we said before, there is no permanent organization. Occasionally a band of men make a "raid," and add picturesqueness and terror to their operations by causing it to be said that they were "White Caps." While one or more of these organizations were thriving in the old days the negroes and Radicals of Barbour county were often terrorized by talk of "dark, rainy, nights and bloody moons." (See Fleming's Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama.) There was another significant phrase which had to do with "Barbour county fever."

The work of so-called "White Caps" has more often than not been characterized by revolting brutality; as often as not their motives were wholly selfish and unworthy.

More is heard of the "White Caps" in the Wiregrass counties today than in other counties in the State.